

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 26, 2001.

Claims 1-24 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1, 6, 11 and 18 are the independent claims, which claims have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-13, 17-20 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,517,557 (Tanaka).

Claims 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka.

Claims 14-16 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,450,483 (Williams).

Amended independent Claims 1 and 6 are directed to a communication apparatus/method adapted to execute a plurality of kinds of facsimile protocols. In the communication apparatus, information at a calling station is stored in a memory in association with ID information at the calling station. Further, there is conducted communication based on a facsimile protocol corresponding to the information stored in the memory, or communication to determine a facsimile protocol to be used, according to whether or not ID information detected before a start of communication with a calling station is stored in the memory.

In the facsimile apparatus of Tanaka, information as to TEL or FAX regarding a partner station, is stored in a memory in association with ID information at the calling station. If the ID information as detected is stored in the memory, corresponding communication (TEL or FAX) is conducted, while if not, an examination is made as to whether the partner station is directed to TEL or FAX. Thus, Tanaka is silent with respect to indicating a communication apparatus adapted to execute a plurality of kinds of facsimile protocols, and to conduct communication based on a facsimile protocol corresponding to the information stored in the memory, or to conduct communication to determine a facsimile protocol to be used, according to

whether or not the ID information detected by the detector circuit is stored in the memory, when communication is to be conducted in response to a calling signal, as now recited in Claims 1 and 6. For at least those reasons, Claims 1 and 6 are considered to be patentable over Tanaka.

Amended independent Claims 11 and 18 are directed to a communication apparatus/method characterized among other features, communication is conducted based on a communication protocol corresponding to ID information or communication to determine a communication protocol, according to whether or not the ID information (of a calling station) has been received by a receiver circuit (in a called station).

As discussed above, with respect to Claims 1 and 6, Tanaka is silent with respect to determining a communication protocol, according to whether or not the ID information is received by the receiver circuit, when communication is to be conducted in response to a calling signal, as now recited in Claims 11 and 18. For at least that reason, Claims 11 and 18 are considered patentable over Tanaka.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of Tanaka discussed above as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

This amendment after final rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance, and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. In

any event, however, entry is requested, as this is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution, and there are no new issues.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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APPENDIX

VERSION MARKED TO SHOW CLAIM CHANGES

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1. (Three Times Amended) A communication apparatus [capable of executing] adapted to execute a plurality of kinds of [communication] facsimile protocols, said apparatus comprising:

a detector circuit adapted to detect ID information for identifying a communication apparatus at a calling station before a start of communication with the communication apparatus at the calling station;

a memory adapted to store information of a communication system of the communication apparatus at the calling station in association with the ID information of the communication apparatus at the calling station; and

a control circuit adapted to conduct communication based on a [communication] facsimile protocol corresponding to the information stored in said memory, or to conduct communication to determine a [communication] facsimile protocol to be used, according to whether or not the ID information detected by said detector circuit is stored in said memory, when communication is to be conducted in response to a calling signal.

6. (Three Times Amended) A communication method [capable of executing] adapted to execute a plurality of kinds of [communication] facsimile protocols, said method comprising:

a detection step of detecting ID information for identifying a communication apparatus at a calling station before a start of communication with the apparatus at the calling station;

a memory step of storing in a memory information of a communication system of the communication apparatus at the calling station in association with the ID information of the communication apparatus at the calling station; and

a control step of conducting communication based on a [communication] facsimile protocol corresponding to the information stored in the memory, or conducting communication to determine a [communication] facsimile protocol to be used, according to whether or not the ID information detected in said detection step is stored in the memory, when communication is to be conducted in response to a calling signal.

11. (Three Times Amended) A communication apparatus [capable of executing] adapted to execute a plurality of types of communication protocols for image communication, said apparatus comprising:

a receiver circuit adapted to receive ID information for identifying a communication apparatus at a calling station before a start of communication of a protocol signal relating to image communication; and

a control circuit adapted to conduct communication based on a communication protocol corresponding to the ID information, or to conduct communication to determine a communication protocol, according to whether or not the ID information is received by said receiver circuit, when communication is to be conducted in response to a calling signal.

18. (Three Times Amended) A control method [for] of controlling a communication apparatus [capable of executing] adapted to execute a plurality of types of communication protocols for image communication, said method comprising:

a reception step of a receiver circuit receiving ID information for identifying a communication apparatus at a calling station before a start of communication of a protocol signal relating to the image communication; and

a control step of conducting communication based on a communication protocol corresponding to the ID information, or conducting communication to determine a communication protocol, according to whether or not the ID information is received by said receiver circuit, when communication is to be conducted in response to a calling signal.

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